United Nations A/62/700–S/2008/108

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 86
The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on Kosovo, of 17 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 86, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

08-24378 (E) 190208

Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on Kosovo

17 February 2008

On 17 February, the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo announced the unilateral proclamation of independence of the province. This constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia, the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the constitutional frameworks of Kosovo and the high-level agreements of the Contact Group. Russia fully supports the reaction of the leadership of Serbia to events in Kosovo and its justified insistence on the restoration of the territorial integrity of that country.

We expect the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the NATO-led forces in Kosovo to take action immediately to fulfil their mandates, as authorized by the Security Council, including the annulment of the decisions of the Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina, and the adoption of severe administrative measures against them. Russia calls for the immediate convening of an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to examine the situation and to take decisive and concrete measures to return to the political settlement process in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

It must not be ignored that the decisions of the leadership of Kosovo risk escalating tension and inter-ethnic violence in the province and giving rise to new conflict in the Balkans. The international community must react responsibly to this challenge. Those contemplating supporting separatism must understand that their actions threaten to have dangerous consequences for the decades-old foundations of the world order and international stability, and the authority of the decisions of the United Nations Security Council.

United Nations S/2008/109

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 14 February 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) (see annex), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007. The report, which was adopted by the Committee on 6 February 2008, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003)

08-24486 (E) 210208

Annex

Annual report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003)

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007.

2. The previous report of the Committee, submitted to the Security Council on 1 February 2007 (S/2007/51), covered the period from 1 January to 31 December 2006.

3. Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana) served as the Committee's Chairman for the first five months of 2007, while Leslie Kojo Christian (Ghana) served as Chairman for the last seven months of 2007; the delegation of Belgium served as the Committee's Vice-Chairman for the full reporting period (see S/2007/20 and S/2007/461).

4. The Committee was established by Security Council resolution 1518 (2003) of 24 November 2003 to continue to identify, in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 23 of resolution 1483 (2003), individuals and entities whose funds, other financial assets and economic resources should be frozen and transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq. According to paragraph 23 of resolution 1483 (2003), the freeze and transfer apply to funds, other financial assets and economic resources of individuals and entities associated with the former Iraqi regime, i.e. funds, other financial assets and economic resources removed from Iraq or acquired by Saddam Hussein or other senior officials of the former Iraqi regime and their immediate family members, including entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by them or by persons acting on their behalf or at their direction; as well as to funds, other financial assets and economic resources of the previous Government of Iraq or its State bodies, corporations, or agencies, located outside Iraq.

5. Although the Committee did not hold any meetings in 2007, its members considered several issues brought to their attention. In particular, the Committee considered communications from Iraq and other countries containing requests to list five individuals and de-list three individuals. By the end of the reporting period, the Committee had not arrived at a decision regarding those requests and they remain under the Committee's consideration.

6. The Committee also considered some communications from Iraq in which its authorities were seeking clarification on assets reportedly belonging to the Iraqi authorities and therefore to be transferred to the Development Fund of Iraq in accordance with resolution 1483 (2003). The Chairman of the Committee conducted intensive consultations with a view to determining to what extent the issues brought to the attention of the Committee at the request of Iraq were within the mandate of the Committee. The Committee agreed to play a facilitating role and addressed two letters in the autumn of 2007 to two States, seeking from them information on the status of the assets in question.

7. The Chairman's position in his personal capacity on the work of the Committee was pronounced on 17 December 2007 (see S/PV.5806).

8. The assets-freeze list is available at the Committee's website, http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1518/index.shtml.

United Nations S/2008/110

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008

Original: English

Identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the highly alarming and sinister remarks made by two senior members of the Iranian leadership threatening the State of Israel in the most offensive of terms.

Last week, on Saturday, 16 February, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Commander-General Muhammad Ali Jafari of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps wrote in a letter to Hizbullah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, "I am convinced that Hizbullah's might is increasing with every passing day and that in the near future, we will witness the disappearance of this cancerous growth called Israel".

Later the same day, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, said in his own letter to Nasrallah, "the hero-breeding land of Lebanon ... will nurture hundreds and thousands of such heroes ... and that combatants of the Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic resistance will continue the struggle until the complete destruction of the Zionist regime and liberation of the entire Islamic land of Palestine".

I remind you that this is not the first time that members of the Iranian establishment have publicly threatened the State of Israel. Moreover, these remarks, as reported by official news agencies in Iran, represent anti-Israel rhetoric and racism of the worst kind. It is wholly inexplicable and unjustifiable that the leadership of a State Member of the United Nations would liken another Member State to a "cancerous growth" and predict its annihilation, once again, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, article III (c) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is explicit in its demand for States to punish and prosecute those that carry out "direct and public incitement to commit genocide".

Israel calls on the international community to condemn without reservation these outrageous anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, and racist threats, which undoubtedly constitute direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the contents of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24578 (E) 210208

United Nations A/62/703–S/2008/111

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 86
The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 February 2008 from Mr. Boris Tadić, the President of the Republic of Serbia, addressed to you (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the letter of the President of the Republic of Serbia were communicated to the President of the Security Council and the members of the Council, as it is of significance for the coming meeting of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 86, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24447 (E) 190208

Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Today the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of our southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, currently under the interim administration of the United Nations, have unilaterally declared independence from the Republic of Serbia, in clear violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

I ask you to recall that Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) explicitly reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, which by a plain reading of its text unambiguously includes Kosovo and Metohija. That resolution further defines the principles by which the issue of Kosovo and Metohija is to be resolved, one of which is defined as "A political process towards the establishment of an *interim political framework agreement providing for substantial self-government for Kosovo, taking full account of the* Rambouillet Accords and *the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*" (emphasis added). It is thus clear that the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, according to resolution 1244 (1999), can only be reached by an agreement of both sides, and that it must ensure substantial self-government for the province of Kosovo and Metohija within the sovereign framework of the Republic of Serbia, as the sole successor to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Any such solution would, moreover, have to be approved by the Security Council. In the light of the above, it is evident that the secessionist move by the Assembly of Kosovo is an attempt to bypass the Security Council and unilaterally impose a solution, in violation of said resolution.

In the wake of this illegal attempt to establish a fait accompli, the Republic of Serbia has adopted a Decision to abrogate the unilateral secessionist acts and activities of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo and Metohija and their infringement of the Republic of Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This Decision is based on a prima facie reading of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), as well as other Security Council resolutions and other documents of international law. The Decision reads in part, "these acts represent a forceful and unilateral secession of a part of the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and therefore are null and void. These acts do not produce any legal effect either in the Republic of Serbia or in the international legal order. Unilateral secession of a part of the territory of a sovereign State constitutes legal violence against the Republic of Serbia and violence against international law".

The Republic of Serbia reaffirms by this Decision that the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is an inalienable part of the integral and indivisible constitutional and legal state framework of the Republic of Serbia, on the basis of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the Charter of the United Nations.

The Republic of Serbia demands that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General take all necessary measures, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) and other Security Council decisions, as he has on previous occasions, to abrogate, without delay, all acts and actions by which unilateral independence has been declared, as well as prevent any further violation of said resolution, and all

other Security Council documents, the United Nations Charter, and all other existing norms and regulations of international law. I, therefore, call upon you to ensure that your Special Representative in Kosovo exercises his powers and responsibilities by immediately declaring this illegal act null and void. I also expect him to act pursuant to the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo (UNMIK/REG/2001/9 of 15 May 2001, para. 8.1 b)) and dissolve the Assembly of Kosovo, since its "declaration of independence" is not in conformity with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

By the said Decision, the Republic of Serbia also requests that the Security Council declare this unilateral act of the Assembly of Kosovo legally invalid. We insist that the Security Council fully protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, as is called for in the United Nations Charter. We also rightfully expect the Security Council to take urgent and effective action to ensure that all provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) are fully respected.

The Republic of Serbia demands that in securing the implementation of its own resolution, the Security Council call for the continuation of the political process leading towards a solution of the issue of Kosovo and Metohija. The Republic of Serbia reiterates its willingness to remain engaged actively and constructively in a new process of negotiations so that an agreement on the future status of Kosovo and Metohija based on the principles laid down in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) may be reached at the earliest opportunity.

The Republic of Serbia firmly believes that the Security Council will unambiguously reconfirm that the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law have universal validity and that its resolutions must be respected, for only by so doing will the system of international security based on these precepts be preserved. Otherwise, a dangerous precedent allowing the unilateral secession of a breakaway region, province or administrative entity from any State Member of the United Nations would be established.

Finally, the Republic of Serbia demands that all States Members of the United Nations fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with their obligations under international law, the United Nations Charter, and Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and thereby reject the so-called independence of the Republic of Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija.

(*Signed*) Boris **Tadić**
President of the Republic of Serbia

United Nations A/62/702–S/2008/112

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 8 to 14 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24996 (E) 250208 250208

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 8 to 14 February 2008, inclusive

Air violations

On 10 February 2007, between 1100 hours and 1150 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab`a farmlands in a northerly direction and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1945 hours and 2350 hours, two enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, one in an easterly direction as far as Markaba and circling over regions of the South, and the second in a northerly direction as far as over the sea off Beirut and circling over the sea off Beirut. The two aircraft departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 11 February 2008, 20 enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over various Lebanese regions as follows:

0930-1115 hours: Four aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

1125-1140 hours: Two aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh and departed over al-Naqurah.

1135-1430 hours: Two aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and departed over al-Naqurah.

1153-1330 hours: Two aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah and departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

1208-1330 hours: Four aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea of al-Zahrani and departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

1440-1655 hours: Two aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh and departed over al-Naqurah.

1532-1705 hours: Four aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1735 hours and 1800 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Naqurah area.

Sea violations

None reported.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 11 February 2008 at 1330 hours, opposite the Fatimah gate at Kafr Kila, as an Israeli patrol was passing near the Lebanese Army position, one of its members

made an obscene finger gesture at one of the position's soldiers and asked him: "What are you worked up about?" He then made the same gesture at a recruit at the same position and asked him: "What are you still doing here?" The patrol then continued on in the direction of the Metullah settlement.

United Nations S/2008/113

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Somalia, in particular resolution 733 (1992), resolution 1356 (2001), resolution 1425 (2002), resolution 1725 (2006), resolution 1744 (2007) and resolution 1772 (2007), the statements of its President, in particular those of 13 July 2006 (S/PRST/2006/31), 22 December 2006 (S/PRST/2006/59), 30 April 2007 (S/PRST/2007/13), 14 June 2007 (S/PRST/2007/19) and 19 December 2007 (S/PRST/2007/49),

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Reiterating its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia through the Transitional Federal Charter, stressing the importance of broad-based and representative institutions reached through a political process ultimately inclusive of all, as envisaged in the Transitional Federal Charter, and *reiterating* its support for Somalia's Transitional Federal Institutions,

Welcoming the appointment by President Yusuf of Prime Minister Nur "Adde" Hassan Hussein, the subsequent appointment of a new Cabinet under the Transitional Federal Government, and the relocation of the Transitional Federal Government to Mogadishu,

Commending the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, and *affirming* its strong support for his efforts,

Underlining the importance of providing and maintaining stability and security throughout Somalia, and *underscoring* the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militia and ex-combatants in Somalia,

Condemning all acts of violence and extremism inside Somalia, and *expressing* its concern regarding the continued violence inside Somalia,

Stressing concern at the upsurge in piracy off the Somali coast described in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report, and *recalling* the joint communiqué of the International Maritime Organization and the World Food Programme of 10 July 2007,

08-24692 (E) 200208

Reiterating its appreciation of the efforts of the international community, in particular the African Union, as well as the League of Arab States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the European Union, to promote peace, stability and reconciliation in Somalia, and welcoming their continued engagement,

Recalling that cooperation between the United Nations and the regional arrangements in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, as are appropriate for regional action, is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 18 January 2008, which states that the African Union will extend the mandate of its mission to Somalia (AMISOM) for an additional six months,

Emphasizing the contribution that AMISOM and its Ugandan and Burundian contingents are making to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, including the important work that the Ugandan forces have carried out in providing medical care for Somali citizens, *condemning* any hostility towards them, and *urging* all parties in Somalia and the region to support and cooperate with AMISOM,

Welcoming the sustained commitment of the Government of Uganda to supporting the efforts of AMISOM over the last year and to the Government of Burundi for its recent deployment,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report on Somalia of 7 November 2007 (S/2007/658), in particular paragraph 32, and *expressing* its appreciation for his support of AMISOM,

Underlining that the full deployment of AMISOM will help facilitate the full withdrawal of other foreign forces from Somalia and help create the conditions for lasting peace and stability there,

Noting that the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 18 January 2008 calls for the United Nations to deploy a peacekeeping operation to Somalia that will support the long-term stabilization and post-conflict restoration in the country,

Recalling the request in its statement of 19 December 2007 (S/PRST/2007/49) that the Secretary-General report to the Security Council on the development of contingency plans for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation to succeed AMISOM, as set out in resolution 1772 (2007),

Determining that the situation in Somalia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to renew the authorization of Member States of the African Union to maintain a mission in Somalia for a further period of six months, which shall be authorized to take all necessary measures as appropriate to carry out the mandate set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 1772 (2007) and underlines, in particular, that AMISOM is authorized to take all necessary measures as appropriate to provide security for key infrastructure and to contribute, as may be requested and within its capabilities, to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

2. *Affirms* that the provisions set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of resolution 1772 (2007) shall continue to apply to the mission referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Urges* Member States of the African Union to contribute to AMISOM in order to help facilitate the full withdrawal of other foreign forces from Somalia and help create the conditions for lasting peace and stability there;

4. *Urges* Member States to provide financial resources, personnel, equipment and services for the full deployment of AMISOM;

5. *Reaffirms* its intention to take measures against those who seek to prevent or block a peaceful political process, or those who threaten the Transitional Federal Institutions or AMISOM by force, or take action that undermines stability in Somalia or the region;

6. *Looks forward* to the Secretary-General's forthcoming report, due on 10 March 2008, including on specific options to strengthen the ability of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), to support further the full deployment of AMISOM, and to prepare for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to succeed AMISOM, and *affirms* its intention to meet again promptly following the release of the report to consider what further action it might take in light of options and recommendations contained within it;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and intensify his efforts to promote an ongoing political process which is ultimately inclusive of all, including by assisting the Transitional Federal Institutions' role in delivering this and services to the Somali people and by working together with the international community, including the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, and the International Contact Group on Somalia and its members;

8. *Calls upon* all international organizations and Member States to support the SRSG in his work in order to enhance security and bring a comprehensive and lasting peace to Somalia and *requests* that they work through him at all times so that a coordinated effort can be attained;

9. *Urges* the Transitional Federal Institutions and all parties in Somalia to respect the conclusions of the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) and to sustain an equally inclusive ongoing political process thereafter, ultimately involving all stakeholders including political leaders, clan leaders, religious leaders, the business community, and representatives of civil society such as women's groups and *encourages* them to unite behind the efforts to promote such an inclusive dialogue;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government towards producing a plan for implementing the NRC conclusions including the completion of the constitutional process, and *reiterates* the need for agreement on a comprehensive and lasting cessation of hostilities and a road map of the critical path for the remainder of the transitional process, including free and democratic elections in 2009 as set out in Somalia's Transitional Federal Charter;

11. *Emphasizes* the continued contribution made to Somalia's peace and security by the arms embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992), as elaborated and amended by subsequent resolutions, *demands* that all Member States, in particular

those of the region, comply fully with it, and *reiterates* its intention to consider ways to strengthen its effectiveness;

12. *Encourages* Member States whose naval vessels and military aircraft operate in international waters and airspace adjacent to the coast of Somalia to be vigilant to any incidents of piracy therein and to take appropriate action to protect merchant shipping, in particular the transportation of humanitarian aid, against any such act, in line with relevant international law, and *welcomes* the contribution made by France to protect the World Food Programme naval convoys and the support now provided by Denmark to this end;

13. *Reaffirms* its previous resolutions 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and 1674 (2006) and 1738 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and *stresses* the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in Somalia to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population in the country, consistent with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate attacks on populated areas;

14. *Strongly supports and encourages* the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts in Somalia, *recalls* its resolution 1502 (2003) on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, *calls on* all parties and armed groups in Somalia to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of AMISOM and humanitarian personnel, and grant timely, safe and unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need, and *urges* the countries in the region to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance by land or via air and seaports;

15. *Reaffirms* its previous resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict and *recalls* the subsequent conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict pertaining to parties to the armed conflict in Somalia (S/AC.51/2007/14);

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2008/114

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 20 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With the conclusion of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission on the final demarcation decision and termination of its operations at the end of November 2007, regrettably there has been a rush from the United Nations to bank on peripheral issues instead of addressing seriously and appropriately the core of the problem as the basis for regional peace and security. Eritrea has maintained all along that the issue of fuel is technical, which could have been resolved quietly without politicizing it.

The press offices of the United Nations and other private media have been levelling unfounded accusations against Eritrea about the situation of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in the country. Eritrea has not requested United Nations peacekeepers to regroup in Asmara nor has it seized arms or equipment belonging to UNMEE as reported in the media. The decision to regroup UNMEE troops was done unilaterally by the United Nations. More importantly, it was not until yesterday, 19 February, that the communication was received after the regrouping of the troops had already been put into effect.

All plans and requests of the United Nations should be formally and clearly communicated in a timely fashion and must be consistent with the Algiers Agreement. Eritrea, as a host country, requests that it receive adequate information from the Secretary-General as to what he intends to do with the regrouped United Nations troops in Asmara. Full and detailed information on the future plans of the Mission is necessary before the Government of Eritrea presents its considered response on the matter.

Moreover, the Government of Eritrea reiterates its request to receive a response from the Secretary-General regarding Ethiopia's occupation of Eritrean territories in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the substantive provisions of the Algiers Peace Agreement, which has been highlighted in several letters and communications of President Isaias Afwerki and the Government of Eritrea since the end of November 2007.

Eritrea cannot be blamed for a lack of cooperation if its views and concerns are disregarded as a host country and if it receives a communication on the eve of an event without drawing an orderly withdrawal plan from the buffer zone that was established under the Algiers Agreement. Eritrea wishes to underline that coordination and cooperation is necessary on vital issues to ensure the orderly and dignified handling of the situation.

08-24740 (E) 210208

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2008/115

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, the members agreed to elect the Chairman of the following committee for the period ending 31 December 2008:

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

Neven Jurica (Croatia)

France, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam will continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen for the said period.

08-24610 (E) 200208

United Nations S/2008/116

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 February 2008

Original: English

Identical letters dated 22 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the latest report of the IAEA Director General on the peaceful nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran (GOV/2008/4) issued on 22 February 2008. As you may have already noticed, the said report declares the full implementation of the Work Plan concluded between Iran and IAEA in August 2007 (INFCIRC/711) and, thus, resolution and closure of all outstanding issues. IAEA had already declared on 15 November 2007 (GOV/2007/58) that three out of six outstanding issues were resolved, and the three remaining issues are now declared resolved and closed in the recent report. In this regard, the IAEA Director General has stressed in the report that "the Agency has been able to conclude that answers provided by Iran, in accordance with the Work Plan, are consistent with its findings" and "considers those questions no longer outstanding". Moreover, the Director General, in his remarks after the release of the report, emphasized the resolution of the outstanding issues and stated, "we have managed to clarify all the remaining outstanding issues, including the most important issue which is the scope and nature of Iran's enrichment programme".

The report also clearly attests to the exclusively peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, both in the past and at present, and also serves to strongly and unambiguously support my country's long-standing position that the allegations raised by a certain country against the peaceful nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been entirely groundless. By implementation of the Work Plan and resolution of the outstanding issues, the very pretexts and allegations, on the basis of which unlawful and unfair actions have been taken by the Security Council against Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, have now proved to be baseless and are gone.

It is now clear more than ever that the consideration of Iran's peaceful nuclear programme was imposed on the Security Council by certain countries out of mere political motivations and narrow national interests and on the basis of certain pretexts and allegations which have been totally baseless. The full implementation of the Work Plan, and thus resolution and closure of the outstanding issues as reflected in the recent IAEA Director General's report, has eliminated those pretexts and allegations which served as the basis of referral of Iran's peaceful nuclear programme to the Security Council.

08-25188 (E) 260208

This report, together with other IAEA reports and statements of the Agency officials, well indicate that Iran has been resolute in its cooperation with the Agency and fully transparent in its nuclear activities. It also shows that the Iranian nation is committed to its international obligations and at the same time persistent in pursuing and exercising its legal and inalienable rights. The report also clearly stresses that Iran's cooperation with IAEA has been proactive and far beyond its comprehensive Safeguards Agreement obligations.

The report of the Director General to the Board of Governors of IAEA further stresses that "the Agency has recently received from Iran additional information similar to that which Iran had previously provided pursuant to the Additional Protocol, as well as updated design information. As a result, the Agency's knowledge about Iran's current declared nuclear programme has become clearer ... The Agency has been able to continue to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran. Iran has provided the Agency with access to declared nuclear material and has provided the required nuclear material accountancy reports in connection with declared nuclear material and activities. Iran has also responded to questions and provided clarifications and amplifications on the issues raised in the context of the work plan", and "has provided access to individuals in response to the Agency's requests". In this regard, the IAEA Director General stressed in his remarks after the release of the report that "Iran in the last few months has provided us with visits to many places that enable us to have a clearer picture of Iran's current programme".

In view of the above and in the wake of the latest report of IAEA, it has become clear that Iran's peaceful nuclear issue should be dealt with by the Agency as the sole pertinent international organization and, as envisaged in the Work Plan, safeguards implementation in Iran has to be in a routine manner from now on. The Security Council should avoid inflicting more damage to the credibility and authority of IAEA as well as its own credibility by persisting in further illegal and illogical engagement and actions pursued by few countries. The present great achievement that is the conclusion of the Work Plan, which is the fruitful result of an excellent joint intensive cooperation between IAEA and the Islamic Republic of Iran, has to be safeguarded by all United Nations Member States, and the international community at large.

I would appreciate if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/62/705–S/2008/117

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda items 17, 18 and 108

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and in pursuance of the previous letters of this Mission, including the letters circulated as documents A/61/571-S/2006/884 and A/61/954-S/2007/354 with regard to the blatant violation of the most basic principles of international law by the Israeli regime in making threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to inform you that, in the absence of any action by the Security Council, and in full contempt for the basic provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the provisions which call for refraining "from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations", various Israeli officials have relentlessly and in full impunity continued to make malicious threats of resorting to force against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this regard, and in yet another outrageous remark against my country, on Monday, 14 January 2008, the Israeli regime's Prime Minister threatened to use military action against Iran, and, once again, put on display the aggressive and terrorist nature of the said regime by saying that "we reject no options a priori" in dealing with Iran's peaceful nuclear programme. Earlier, on 7 December 2007, the Israeli ambassador in London, while referring to Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, also made threats against Iran by saying that "it should be made clear that if Iran does not cooperate, then military confrontation is inevitable".

These unacceptable and unjustifiable threats follow many others made in the past, including the Israeli Prime Minister's remarks in 2007 in which he had stressed: "nobody is ruling military option out ... It is impossible perhaps to destroy

the entire [Iranian] nuclear programme but it would be possible to damage it in such a way that it would be set back years ...".

The daily barrage of Israeli threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including — but not limited to — the above-mentioned statements and those mentioned in documents A/61/571-S/2006/884 and A/61/954-S/2007/354, constitute a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law and the basic provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and, therefore, require an urgent and resolute response on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

It is ironic, and indeed preposterous, that the Israeli regime with its shocking record and long catalogue of resorting to force, terrorism, aggression and occupation against various Members of the United Nations, and as a regime which has committed and continues to perpetrate one of the worst kinds of genocide, racism and indeed "ethnic cleansing" — as described by United Nations officials — against the Palestinian people, is making baseless allegations of "incitement to commit genocide" against others, including in the letter of its representative addressed to you on 19 February 2008.

The distortions and fabrications made in the said letter of the representative of the Israeli regime display yet another failed smokescreen by the said regime to distract the international community's attention from the war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and genocide that it continues to commit against the Palestinians in full impunity. It is also a tired attempt to deflect the United Nations attention from the inexplicable and unlawful threats that the said regime has made and continues to make against the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries of the region.

Undoubtedly, the inaction of the Security Council in dealing with the criminal policies and practices of the Israeli regime, and the impunity with which this regime has been allowed to carry out its crimes thus far, have emboldened it in its irresponsible behaviour. The Security Council should react to these threats by unambiguously condemning them and calling on the said regime to cease and desist immediately from the threat of using force against Members of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17, 18 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2008/118

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 15 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in reference to document S/2008/10 dated 11 January 2008 concerning matters of which the Security Council is seized and the stage reached in their consideration. On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Syrian Arab Republic requests the retention of the following items listed in paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned document:

1. The Palestine question.

11. Arrangements for the proposed Peace Conference on the Middle East.

15. The Middle East problem, including the Palestinian question.

16. The situation in the occupied Arab territories.

17. The question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

20. Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17787).

21. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17993).

71. Letter dated 5 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2003/939).

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the position of the Syrian Arab Republic set out in its note dated 9 February 1998 (S/1998/111) addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24814 (E) 250208

United Nations S/2008/119

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 15 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan wishes to have retained on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized item 4 in paragraph 2 of the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/2008/10 of 11 January 2008), namely the item entitled "Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General (S/3963)".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Akec **Khoc**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

08-24808 (E) 250208

United Nations S/2008/120

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 20 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1799 (2008) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, adopted on 15 February 2008, by which the Council decided to extend until 31 March 2008 the mandate of the Group of Experts referred to in paragraph 9 of resolution 1771 (2007).

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have re-appointed the following persons to serve on the Group of Experts for the period ending on 31 March 2008:

Abdoulaye Cissoko (Mali, aviation expert)

Caty Clément (Belgium, regional expert)

Amadou Hamidou (Niger, customs expert)

Ramón Miranda Ramos (Spain, arms expert)

Gregory Salter (United Kingdom, finance expert)

Mr. Miranda Ramos will continue to serve as Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-24821 (E) 220208